

The Columbus Courier

Vol. VI.

Columbus, Luna County, New Mexico, August 4, 1916.

No. 7

DEMING WANTS EXPEDITION BASE

Every available method being used to get troops from Border to Deming. Simply a town-boosting proposition regardless of Border Protection

It has now been eight months since the citizens of Deming started a campaign to take the soldiers away from Columbus that they might have the advantage of their payroll. Every means that has ever suggested itself to Deming has been used, except they have not the nerve to say they need the protection of the soldiers. Last December it was thought among themselves that everything had been arranged, and that soon Columbus would be left without any protection whatsoever. They thought that the Department of War at Washington was satisfied that Deming was the logical place for the establishment of a camp, and that the Southern Department had also agreed. This at the expense of the trips of two committees, one to Washington and one to San Antonio. The matter of the decision, finally, however, was left up to Colonel Slocum. He knew the situation, saw its danger and refused to entertain the thought at all.

Since that time we have seen several of our most prominent citizens, both men and women, bathed in their own blood. We have seen Columbus, the place we call our home, looted and burned by Mexican Bandits. The fact that there is any of us left to tell the story is due to the presence of the soldiers, and that Deming had not succeeded in her greed for gain. After they saw they had failed, one of the prominent citizens of Deming made the remark to one of our prominent citizens that "they did not give a d--- for the soldiers, that all they cared for was the pay roll." A similar admission was made to an officer of the 13th Cavalry.

Some of the Deming citizens, conscience stricken, apologized to Columbus for the part they had taken in trying to get the troops removed from Columbus to Deming. Columbus did not think that Deming would ever have the audacity to even suggest such a thing again. Wrong.

Deming is now using every conceivable method to get the base of supplies. We are told the assistance of a United States senator is being solicited for this purpose. We of Columbus do not believe that the senator could so far forget his duty to the border as to lend his assistance to Deming's unworthy scheme.

It has been reported and generally circulated that the citizens of Columbus had held up the government in prices for leases on ground for camp site purposes, which is absolutely untrue. Columbus has always co-operated with the military, and recently they have been given leases on 1280 acres of land, the same having

Continued on Page 2

Petition to Remove Police

A petition is being circulated in Columbus to Sheriff Simpson, asking that he remove the civilian police which has been on duty since the raid. There are now twenty-seven men on the force, twenty having been discharged about one week ago.

The reasons set forth in the petition is incompetency, neglect of duty, brutality, presence unnecessary and other things too numerous to mention. It is not known with what success the petition is meeting with in securing names.

Motor Trucks to Deming

A large number of trucks have been ordered to Deming to be in readiness to transport the troops to Columbus in case any trouble should arise on the border, according to an item in the El Paso Times of July 2nd. Some of the trucks have already been put into service between Deming and Columbus, taking supplies from this point to the camp at Deming. It is learned that a large portion of the supplies for that camp will be received from the base here.

According to information from the Base Quartermaster's office, enough truck trains are on route to Columbus to increase the new large number to 65 companies. There are 27 trucks to the company, and two men are employed with each truck. Drivers and mechanics are being brought along with the trains from the factories.

Ladies' Aid Meeting

A business meeting of the Ladies' Aid was held at the Methodist Church Wednesday afternoon. The regular routine of business matters were disposed of and a committee appointed to draft a new set of by-laws to be presented at the next meeting. The committee was instructed to insert a clause regulating dues and membership. A social tea was planned, the place and date to be decided upon later.

Pleased With Columbus Camp.

General Tasker H. Bliss, assistant chief of staff, who has been making a tour of the militia concentration camps along the border, has expressed himself as highly pleased with the condition of the camps of the New Mexico and Massachusetts troops at Columbus.—El Paso Times.

Chaplain Danker, of the 2nd Mass. Regiment, and Vincent, of the 1st New Mexico Infantry, will hold services in the Methodist Church at 7:30 Sunday evening, August 6th, 1916. All are cordially invited to attend.

Bootleggers Can Be Fined by Justice

Letter from Clancy explains that violators of the liquor law can be fined under ordinance.

That bootleggers can be fined by the police judge and the money so collected be paid into the city treasury is the substance of a letter received from H. S. Clancy, assistant attorney general of the State of New Mexico.

In order to do this it was necessary to pass a village ordinance providing a penalty of a fine not to exceed \$100, and imprisonment not to exceed three months. Under the existing laws no ordinance prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors can be repealed without a vote, and an election cannot be held at this time. It was found, however, that the prohibition ordinance, on account of a small technicality, had not been legally adopted by the first Board of Trustees elected in the Village of Columbus.

Mr. Clancy states in his letter that all prosecutions for bootlegging must come under the Village ordinance. Not having any legal ordinance, the Trustees adopted one, which will, in the future, give the police judge the authority to fine those who violate the liquor laws, the fine remaining here at home.

The laws of the state compel the Board of Trustees to pass an ordinance or ordinances to place the result of a prohibition election into effect. Jurisdiction in all cases where the prosecution is made under town or village ordinances is given the Justice of the Peace.

The letter from the assistant attorney general follows:

Santa Fe, N. M. July 27, 1916
Mr. G. E. Parks,
Columbus, N. M.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th instant in which you inquire whether a Justice of the Peace has jurisdiction to impose a fine or imprisonment, or both, upon persons who are convicted of the offense of "boot legging".

As I am informed, Columbus is an incorporated town or village, and that the barter, sale or exchange of intoxicating liquors is prohibited within the municipality and within two miles of the limits thereof, such prohibition having been authorized by the result of an election held under the provisions of Secs. 2940 to 2948 of the Codification of 1915. The last paragraph of Sec. 2944 makes it mandatory upon the municipality, in case the majority of the votes cast at the election shall be in favor of prohibition, to pass "such ordinance or ordinances as may be necessary to carry such provisions into effect," so that all prosecutions for bootlegging must be had under the town ordinance. As to whether a Justice of the Peace would have jurisdiction to inflict a punishment upon conviction of a violation of such ordinance, would depend upon the wording of the ordinance. If the ordinance follows the language of Sec. 2948 and fixes the punishment, "by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars," a Justice of the Peace would only have jurisdiction to hold the accused for action by a grand jury, but if the ordinance provides that the punishment may be by fine of one hundred dollars or less, the Justice would have jurisdiction. It occurs to this office that in

Los Gringos Punitive

Last Sunday afternoon Los Gringos Punitive, a society organized to commemorate the punitive expedition into Mexico, made another and their second trip out into the broad and illimitable cactus fields of southern New Mexico surrounding Columbus.

There were several new candidates to be installed, and after a rare and refreshing shower of rain, about 12:45 everything was gotten in readiness, and the members of the society, with a supply of refreshments and other necessary paraphernalia, loaded themselves into two large trucks, driven by Messrs. Hillhouse and Sims, and started on their journey.

Going out on the Deming road five miles, the caravan turned off to the left and went over to a windmill about a mile distant from the main road. Here everyone unloaded and immediately set to work to prepare themselves for a real rainstorm (which only came in part), and to prepare for the ceremonies thru which the candidates were to pass. Under the directorship of El Gringo Pequeno, the candidates, Messrs. Bardette, Thrall, Sims, Stoner, Brubheimer, Frey and Falger, were carried thru the mystic rights of the "Burning Mesa." All ceremonies over, everyone was served with food and drink, and immediately thereafter a most serious shooting affair took place. No one was hurt, however, as the shooting was mostly done with a camera. Pleasures were indulged in until a late hour, the approach of night sending all back to Columbus.

Columbus a Motor Truck Town

"Columbus of to day does not look at all like the Columbus of a year ago," said A. H. Hudspeth, United States marshal, who returned to headquarters last night, after a visit to the city mentioned, which is now the big military base on the border.

"The New Mexico regiment is stationed there, and also one from Massachusetts, in addition to the troops of the United States army. What appeals most to the citizen is the enormous amount of work and preparation required to take care of the truck trains. The town seems to be filled with agents, salesmen and demonstrators representing the companies which manufacture motor trucks. Hundreds of these trucks are now running in and out of Columbus, and experiments are being made with different makes. The aviation corps is also stationed there, and every day the machines are tested and tried out. Keeping the expeditionary force supplied, under the present circumstances, certainly is no easy task."—New Mexican.

prosecutions of this kind the desired end could be attained by requiring the accused, if the evidence warranted it, to furnish a good bond conditioned upon the action of the grand jury, such bond to be in a reasonable amount, say \$500, and in default in the furnishing of such bond to commit the accused to jail. However, as before stated, the question of the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace in the imposition of a fine depends upon the wording of the town ordinance.

Very truly yours,
H. S. Clancy,
Assistant Attorney General.

Commends Colonel

Herbert J. Slocum

Report of Special Commission, Concurred in by Pershing and Funston. Praises Commander.

Washington, July 31.—High commendation for Colonel Herbert J. Slocum and his men of the Thirteenth Cavalry for their "prompt and valorous action" in repulsing and pursuing Villa and his bandits when they attacked Columbus, N. M., last March, is given in a special investigator's report on the incident, which the war department announced today had been approved by Secretary Baker.

The raid, which brought relations between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico to a crisis and caused the dispatch of General Pershing's punitive expedition, was investigated at the department's order by an officer of the inspector general's office attached to the staff of General Pershing, disposed finally of the incident so far as the department is concerned. The inspector's report said:

"I recommend that Colonel Slocum be advised that no stigma rests upon his conduct of command at Columbus at the time of Villa's attack, and that he and his command are highly commended for their prompt and valorous action in the repulse of Villa's forces and the pursuit of the same."

Police Court Proceedings

This has been the most quiet week in police court since the raid. Very few arrests have been made by the officers. Lieutenants Donnelly and Williams paid the village \$5 each and costs on a charge of indecent exposure. Ivy Edwards and Ruby Blair paid the same fine for a similar offense. Jose Puchi was assessed a fine of \$5 for disturbing the peace.

Ignorance is Bliss, Etc., Etc.

The first army aeroplane to visit Deming since the opening of operations on the border flew over the town this morning, making a complete circle of the city and disappearing to the southeast. It is not certain what brought the machine here, as the aviators did not descend, but it is supposed that they wanted to see if the summer clearance sales were still running. No one had any accurate dope on where the machine came from or where it was going, so the freest speculation could be indulged in without any danger of the speculator being hampered by the truth.—Deming Headlight of July 28th.

A member of the Columbus aviation corps made a beautiful flight over the Mimbres Valley this morning, circling around Deming like an eagle. He kept very high in the air.—Deming Graphic of July 28th.

Republican Convention Aug. 15

The Republican county convention will be held in Deming on Tuesday, August 15th, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the county offices and selection of delegates to the state convention. A primary will be held in the county sometime before 15th instant for the purpose of electing delegates to the convention.

Groceries and Dry Goods

Saving time is just as important as saving money when buying the necessities of life, and by making as many purchases as possible in our place you can accomplish both results.

Our Grocery Department is complete in every respect, and our goods are always fresh, clean and wholesome.

In the line of Dry Goods we can supply your wants.

SAM RAVEL

**COLUMBUS,
New Mexico**

THE DOLLAR OR DIME YOU SPEND WITH US STAYS RIGHT HERE AT HOME